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Cotton Production Up 16 Percent

Tennessee: Cotton production is forecast at 1,140,000 bales, up 16 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 862 pounds per acre, down 38 pounds from last year's record.

U.S. Cotton: All cotton production is forecast at a record high 23.7 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from the

November forecast and 2 percent above last year. Yield is expected to average 832 pounds per acre, up 19 pounds from last month but down 23 pounds from 2004. If realized, production will surpass the previous record set last year, while yield would be the second largest on record. However, Georgia, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas are expecting record high yields. The December area expected for harvest remains unchanged from last month at 13.7 million acres but is up 5 percent from 2004.

Cotton Summary: Tennessee & U.S. Yield and Production, 2004 and Forecasted December 1, 2005

		Yield Per Acre	Production ¹			
	2005					
	2004	November 1	December 1	2004	2005	
	Pounds 1,000 Bales ²					
Tennessee						
Upland Cotton	900	862	862	984.0	1,140.0	
United States						
All Cotton	855	813	832	23,250.7	23,703.0	
Upland	843	806	824	22,505.1	23,209.0	
American-Pima	1,443	1,166	1,221	745.6	674.0	
Cottonseed ³				8,242.1	8,496.0	

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned. 2 480-Lb. net weight bales. 3 Production in 1,000 tons; 2005 production based on a 3-year average lint-seed ratio.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to December 1, Crop Years 2002-2005

	Running Bales Ginned					
	2002	2003	2004	2005		
All Cotton						
AL	427,000	622,900	654,150	651,300		
AZ	397,300	290,450	354,900	309,250		
AR	1,501,150	1,609,150	1,766,150	2,001,950		
CA	1,326,750	1,118,150	1,457,400	1,054,350		
FL	44,900	96,800	77,750	78,250		
GA	1,029,400	1,422,900	1,397,600	1,409,400		
KS ¹		16,500	5,100	39,000		
LA	716,800	1,023,450	862,500	1,104,800		
MS	1,691,850	1,983,700	2,124,650	2,075,850		
MO	534,750	580,950	692,800	824,450		
NM	34,850	36,000	30,950	36,850		
NC	578,150	729,500	1,104,400	985,700		
OK	132,650	117,450	130,850	160,250		
SC	82,300	209,600	295,850	258,550		
TN	723,250	739,350	811,300	967,900		
TX	3,084,200	2,789,450	2,874,200	3,986,650		
VA	62,350	79,600	113,900	112,600		
US	12,367,650	13,465,900	14,754,450	16,057,100		

Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins, but included in the US totals.

Floriculture Survey Begins

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the Commercial Floriculture Survey beginning in December 2005 to collect data on floriculture operations in 36 states.

The floriculture and nursery industry has more than doubled from 1988 to 1998 with sales totaling more than \$10 billion per year as reported by the 1998 Census of Horticultural Specialties. The 2004 wholesale value of floriculture crops was up two percent from the previous year. The total crop value at wholesale for all growers with \$10,000 or more in sales was estimated at \$5.18 billion in 2004, compared with \$5.08 billion for 2003. This represents a significant contribution to farm income and the Gross Domestic Product.

This survey will be used to produce reliable data on key items such as area of production, products sold, and value of sales. Leaders from various floriculture industries encourage growers and producers to participate in this survey, knowing it is crucial to have accurate data on the industry. Results from the Commercial Floriculture Survey will be released on April 26, 2006.

"NASS works with producers and growers to provide complete, accurate and objective statistics that keep U.S. floriculture industry informed," said Debra Kenerson, Director of the Tennessee Field Office. "Growers gain important benefits from providing their responses to this survey."

The results of the survey ensure information is available to the public and the industry on commercial floriculture production. Summarized results measure the economic contribution of the floriculture industry to the U.S. economy and provide accurate industry statistics that are crucial to obtaining research funding and government support on various issues.

NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses. Data from individual operations are combined with other responses. NASS will not disclose any data about an individual operation. The results will be published as state and national estimates. You can view floriculture statistics on the NASS Web site at www.nass.usda.gov. For other information, e-mail nass@nass.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at (800) 999-6779.

U.S. Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from November 2004. October revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 4.0 percent from October 2004. The October revision represented a decrease of 17 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,590 pounds for November, 59 pounds above November 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 60,000 head more than November 2004, and 2,000 head more than October 2005.

National Agricultural Summary, December 12 - 18, 2005

Highlights: Warm, dry weather on the northern and central Great Plains eroded some of the protective snow cover from the winter wheat crop, while dry conditions in the southern Plains continued to stress the crop. Elsewhere in the Nation, belownormal temperatures prevailed. In the Corn Belt, widespread snow cover provided protection for winter wheat but stressed livestock. A high pressure system in the Pacific Northwest held temperatures to as much as 15 degrees Fahrenheit below normal, but winter grains were protected by a generous snow cover. Across California and the Southwest, dry weather favored late-season fieldwork. A storm system began dropping heavy rainfall along the upper Gulf Coast of Texas and throughout Louisiana around midweek, causing local flooding. The system then moved on into the Southeast and up the Atlantic Coast, bringing freezing rain, sleet, and snow.

Vegetable harvest in Florida was aided by dry conditions. Cool weather helped to harden citrus groves. In Georgia, soybean and cotton harvests edged closer to completion, while onion transplanting continued. Texas' winter wheat crop continued to suffer from a lack of precipitation, though most of the crop was entering dormancy. Arizona's cotton crop was 91 percent harvested, 3 percentage points behind normal. Winter wheat has been slow to emerge in California's San Joaquin Valley due to dry conditions, while carrot harvest was underway in Kern County.

Tennessee Goat Producers Association Spring Production Sales

The Tennessee Goat Producers Association (TGPA) and the Myotonic Goat Registry would like to invite you to participate in the Spring Breeding Stock Consignment Sale show on Saturday, March 25 at the Wilson County Fairground, Lebanon, TN. The TGPA Board of Directors is committed to leading and promoting the goat industry in Tennessee. Promoting "**High Quality**" replacement animals, regardless of breed-type, is securing the future of our goat industry.

The sale is being conducted to assist goat producers buy and sell quality-produced goats. The sale is open to straight bred and percentages replacement stock. All stock will be expected to meet the conformation standards of the American Meat Goat Association. On Friday evening, March, 24 2006, animals, will arrive to the fairground to be inspected by a licensed veterinarian for visible signs of caseous lymphadenitis (CL) and others infectious or contagious diseases and check for health certificates. Health certificate of each animal must be from a licensed veterinarian. Each selected breeder will have the opportunity to consign 10 goats a maximum of two (2) males only. A commission of 5% and \$5.00/head entry fee will be charged to TGPA members. Consignments will be accepted from non-TGPA members at a 10% commission and a \$5.00/head entry fee.

Sellers will have the opportunity to marketing 10 goats (eight females and two males) and be expected to guarantee the health and soundness of their consignments. TGPA assumes no liability with regard to animal soundness. TGPA will publish a catalog of all animals consigned to the sale. Therefore, please include pedigree information and photos (if desired) with your enrollment form. All registered animals are to have "hard-copy" papers from a breed organization as no registration applications will be accepted. The sale will be limited to a 100 goats. For more information about the TGPA sale contact Dr. Maria Leite-Browning, TGPA Vice-President at mllbahia@aol.com or (615) 336 - 2127, Mrs. Robin Cotten, TGPA Sales Committee Chair at sawtree@bigriver.net, or watch the TGPA website (www.tngoatproducers.org) for updates.

Dairy Products Prices Highlights

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.37 per pound for the week ending December 10. The price per pound increased 1.1 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.37 per pound, up 2.0 cents from the previous week. Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.36 per pound for the week ending December 10. The U.S. price per pound decreased 3.3 cents from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged \$1.00 per pound for the week ending December 10. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.4 cent from the previous week. Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 32.3 cents per pound for the week ending December 10. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.2 cent from the previous week.

All Orange Production Down 12 Percent

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2005-06 season is 9.44 million tons, down 12 percent from the previous forecast but 4 percent above last season's final utilization of 9.11 million tons. Florida's all orange forecast, at 162 million boxes (7.29 million tons), is down 15 percent from the previous forecast but up 8 percent from the 2004-05 crop. Early, midseason, and navel varieties are forecast at 80.0 million boxes (3.60 million tons), 14 percent below the previous forecast but 1 percent above last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia forecast is reduced by 15 million boxes to 82.0 million boxes (3.69 million tons), down 15 percent from the previous forecast but up 16 percent from last season's final utilization. Early-midseason bearing tree numbers are reduced from the number used to prepare the October forecast by 1.4 percent, and Valencia tree numbers are reduced by 2.4 percent. For both Valencia and early-midseason crops, projected fruit sizes will be smaller than any of the previous 10 years, and fruit drop will be above average. Arizona, California, and Texas orange production forecasts are carried forward from October.

In response to Hurricane Wilma, which struck Florida on October 24, limb count crews revisited one-third of the previously completed orange and grapefruit samples in the two hurricane-affected areas (Indian River and Southern growing areas). The fruit per tree components of the citrus forecasts were updated from this special survey. In addition to hurricane related updates, bearing tree numbers were revised to account for removals due to ongoing canker eradication efforts. All available data were analyzed to prepare the December 1 citrus forecasts.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During November 2004 and 2005

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	
		Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,901	1,725	9,300	9,126	1,871	1,841	
Arkansas	4,746	4,460	15,202	14,817	1,881	1,923	
Georgia	11,148	9,969	20,179	19,038	2,086	2,112	
North Carolina	3,295	3,306	10,826	10,828	1,921	1,939	
All Other States ²	259,482	263,518	289,290	292,787	2,210	2,211	
United States	280,572	282,978	344,797	346,596	2,170	2,175	

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee is included in all other states total.

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, November 2004 and 2005

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	
	1,000 Head		1,000	1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee							
Cattle	1.3	1.4	1,218	1,254	905	891	
Calves	0.1	0.2	57	77	450	489	
Hogs	58.0	63.2	27,900	30,348	481	480	
Sheep & lambs	0.6	1.0	47	79	81	79	
United States							
Cattle	2,542.3	2,667.5	3,224,586	3,426,084	1,268	1,284	
Calves	67.9	56.3	22,809	20,562	336	365	
Hogs	8,972.8	9,132.3	2,421,568	2,483,610	270	272	
Sheep & lambs	242.0	224.5	32,914	31,556	136	141	

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).